

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 285319
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LROSENBLATT:KA
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
EA/RA:FBENNETT
C:IWOLFF

-----006789 300816Z /11

R 300322Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 285319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, XE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WITH AUSTRALIAN
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AMBASSADOR

REF: A. CANBERRA 8137, B. KUALA LUMPUR 9050

1. ON NOVEMBER 12 COUNSELOR OF DEPARTMENT NIMETZ RAISED
WITH AMBASSADOR RENOUF PROBLEM OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.
NIMETZ" EXPLAINED THAT ESCAPE RATES OF INDOCHINESE BY LAND

AND SEA HAD RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT MONTHS AND THAT THE U.S. PAROLE ACTION OF AUGUST 11 IS ALREADY OVERSUBSCRIBED. NIMETZ URGED AUSTRALIA TO CONSIDER A SMALL MONTHLY ALLOCATION FOR BOAT REFUGEES TO AUGMENT PRESENT AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE PROGRAM AND POINTED OUT THAT SUCH AN ALLOCATION COULD HELP THE UNHCR IN ITS EFFORTS TO OFFER SINGAPORE ASSURANCES NEEDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSIT CENTER AND ALSO MIGHT BE OF HELP IN KEEPING THE DOORS IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA OPEN. RENOUF INDICATED HE WOULD PASS NIMETZ' REQUEST TO CANBERRA.

2. WE HAVE MADE A SIMILAR APPROACH TO CANADA WHICH HAS LED TO STILL CONFIDENTIAL DECISION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ADMITTED ON A MONTHLY BASIS. WE HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO THE FRENCH WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO EITHER LAND OR BOAT REFUGEES WHO MEET FRENCH CRITERIA. A FRENCH TEAM IS NOW INTERVIEWING AT LAEM SING BOAT REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND IN ORDER TO EASE THE PRESSURES THERE.

3. ON NOVEMBER 23, OAKLEY DISCUSSED REFUGEE SITUATION WITH RENOUF. LATTER SAID CANBERRA IS STUDYING ENTIRE QUESTION IN LIGHT OF USG REQUEST AND RECENT UPSURGE IN NUMBERS OF BOATS AND REFUGEES. AUSTRALIANS ARE CONCERNED OVER FACT THAT LONGER, MORE SEAWORTHY BOATS COMBINED WITH REFUSAL OF LANDING BY SINGAPORE, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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INDONESIA HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF REFUGEES REACHING AUSTRALIA. GOA HAS LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT MORE REFUGEES THAN BEFORE ON A DE FACTO BASIS, WHILE IT IS ALSO LOOKING INTO QUESTION OF WHAT IT CAN DO TO ASSIST IN CAMPS (REF B INDICATED GOA IS DOING THIS).

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO FOLLOW UP WITH MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS STRESSING OUR HOPE THAT THE AUSTRALIANS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE A MONTHLY QUOTA FOR BOAT REFUGEES EVEN IF FOR A LIMITED NUMBER EACH MONTH FROM THAILAND AND MALAYSIA. ANY AUSTRALIAN AUGMENTATION WILL BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN OUR OWN EFFORTS WITH CONGRESS TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM U.S. PROGRAM HERE.

5. IF POSSIBLE ROSENBLATT WILL MAKE STOP IN CANBERRA ENROUTE BANGKOK AS SUGGESTED PARA 3, REF A. PARTICULARS TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LROSENBLATT:KA
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770443-0560
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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